

**Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)**  
**Vehicle Access Special Use Permit, Division of State Parks**  
**Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve, Mokulē'ia**

**Who?**

Who needs the permit?

Anyone who wants to drive a "vehicle" into Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve, Mokulē'ia Section, beyond the paved road and parking lot. The new gate at the end of the paved road will be locked therefore only permitted vehicles will be given the combination to the lock. Those wishing to hike or ride a bicycle into the area will not need a permit.

Who is eligible for a permit?

Anyone with a valid driver's license (including out of State licenses) may apply for a permit.

**What?**

What "vehicles" need a permit?

For the purpose of this permit, a "vehicle" means any licensed, motorized vehicle including, but not limited to, four-wheel drive automobiles, trucks, and vans or motorcycles, motor bikes, mopeds, and scooters.

**When?**

When will we need a permit?

We anticipate the gate being locked and the permitting system being in place on December 1, 2014. In order for someone to receive the combination to the lock, they will need to have a permit.

**Where?**

Where does the permit cover?

The permit is a vehicle access special use permit for a portion of the Mokulē'ia Section of Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve. It does not apply to the Natural Area Reserve (beyond the boulder barrier) or the Keawa'ula (Yokohama Bay) Section of Ka'ena Point State Park or any other State Park where vehicle access is limited.

Where can permitted vehicle go?

Once past the gate, vehicles must stay on designated roads and parking areas. Parking is allowed along designated roads only if the parked vehicle does not block the way of other vehicles. Designated roads and parking areas will be temporarily marked with brightly-colored, flexible survey markers (whiskers) until designated roads are easily distinguished from off-road vehicle tracks and non-designated routes. Directional signs will be posted at appropriate junctions. A map of all designated roads and parking areas will be attached to the issued permit.

**Why?**

Why is the gate being locked and why are we being required to have a permit?

Increased use of the area over the past 20 years, resulting in substantial degradation of natural and cultural resources and the existing road network, has prompted numerous attempts by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to better manage the area. In 2011, after consultation with the community selected Ka'ena Point Advisory Committee, the Board of Land and Natural Resources

approved an action plan for the area drafted by the DLNR Ka'ena Point Stewardship Team comprised of all Divisions of DLNR. Although the action plan called for implementing a vehicular access permit system, Chair Aila decided to try voluntary compliance on the part of the public prior to closing the gate. In 2011 and 2012, DLNR installed signs designating the upper road and shoreline access roads in the State Park Reserve, however, off road vehicle use is still negatively impacting the area. DLNR is now implementing the permit system in order to stem the negative impact of off road vehicular use on natural and cultural resources in accordance with the mandate of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

## **How?**

### How much does the permit cost?

Nothing. The permit is free

### How do I get a permit and combination to the gate lock for the controlled vehicle access area?

If applicants have all the necessary information with them at the meeting, their permits will be processed and issued immediately.

You may also apply for a permit in person at the State Parks office during normal permit hours (8:00 am to 3:15 pm). The permit will be issued at that time.

Completed applications can also be mailed to State Parks (Division of State Parks, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm 310, Honolulu HI, 96813). Application forms will be available on the State Parks website (<http://www.hawaiistatepark.org>). The forms are text-fillable and can be submitted by email at [DLNR.KAENAVehiclepermit@hawaii.gov](mailto:DLNR.KAENAVehiclepermit@hawaii.gov). It may take up to 5 working days to issue permits for applications submitted by mail or email.

### What information do I need for the permit application?

Applicants will need a valid driver's license, vehicle information (make, model and license plate), additional drivers information (names and drivers license number), and contact information. In order to expedite the process, it is highly recommend that applicants review the application forms before attending the meetings or visiting the office. Sample applications are available online at <http://www.hawaiistatepark.org>.

### How much does the application cost?

The application is free and there is no charge.

### Can someone else apply for the permit for me?

No. The applicant must have a valid driver's license in order to apply for a permit in person. If you are listed as an additional driver, you do not have to be present.

If someone submits an application on your behalf electronically, you are responsible for all permit conditions and actions taken within the State Park Reserve involving the use of your vehicle. Permits may be revoked if permit conditions are not followed.

### What does the permit include?

The applicant will receive a copy of the application signed by the State Parks Administrator and by the applicant verifying acceptance of the application and issuance of the permit. By signing, the applicant verifies that he or she has read and understands all attached permit conditions.

The permit will include the following:

- Conditions and rules applying to this Special Use Permit

- Instructions on obtaining the combination to the locked gate
- Maps depicting the designated roads and parking areas
- Decal with your permit number to be placed in a visible location on your bumper or a comparable location on the rear of your vehicle

#### How do we get the combination to the locked gate for the controlled vehicle access area?

The combination to the lock is only given to permit holders. When applying for a permit, you need to select one method of notification:

- (1) Email–You will receive an email with the combination once a week
- (2) Text Message–You will be sent a text message with the gate combination once a week (you are responsible for any text message charges). State Parks needs to know permittee's cell phone carrier (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile, etc.) to send this text message.
- (3) Phone in – You will call State Parks at (808) 587-0300 during normal permitting hours (8:00 am to 3:15 pm) and request the combination before entering the controlled vehicle access area. The request should be within or immediately before the combination period (Wednesday to Wednesday)

#### When will the combination on the locked gate be changed?

The combination will be changed on Wednesday morning by 9:00 am.

Permit holders planning to be within the controlled vehicle access area beginning on Tuesday and exiting on Wednesday or Thursday, can call the State Parks office at (808) 587-0300 on Monday or Tuesday and request the combination for the following week.

#### **Other questions:**

##### How long does the permit last?

The permit will be valid for one calendar year. The current permit will be good for December 2014 and throughout 2015. Applications for 2016 permits will be accepted and processed in December 2015.

##### Does this mean that there will be more enforcement at Ka'ena Point?

A permitting system is a management tool that can aid in enforcement of rules. If permit holders conduct illegal activities while in the area, in addition to receiving other penalties, their permit may be revoked and they will not be able to obtain the combination for the gate.

##### How can DLNR enforcement officers tell if I have a valid permit or if I just asked someone for the gate combination?

When vehicle access permits are issued, the person will also receive a decal for the bumper of the vehicle used at Ka'ena and identified on the permit application. Enforcement officers will easily be able to see if a vehicle is permitted or not.

##### How do I open the lock on the Ka'ena gate?

The lock on the Ka'ena gate is a combination lock. The combination is only given to valid permit holders. The lock will be a four digit combination lock.

The lock will be placed in a bell housing with a view port cut into the bell housing so that the numbers can be viewed at the bottom of the lock. Grab a hold of the lock from under the bell housing and raise the base of the lock to the view port to see the numbers. With the other hand enter the combination numbers through the view port. After entering the 4 digits, push the lock away from you and then pull it towards you to open the lock. Remove the lock from the bell housing to open the gate. When entering

or leaving, it is important to close the gate behind you, reset the combination numbers, replace the lock into the bell housing, and re-lock the gate.

If I have a valid permit, will I always be able to enter the gate at Ka'ena?

The gate will be locked every day for 24 hours a day. With a valid combination, you will be able to enter the gate at any time on any day. An exception would be if the DLNR deems the area to be unsafe or if there is an emergency. Recent closures occurred during hurricane and tropical storm warnings. In the event that the area is closed, permit holders will be notified.

**Other Considerations:**

The special conditions for this permit expand the types of equipment people are permitted to use when using the area at night. Tents are prohibited but those with valid permits are allowed to have a portable canopy with one or two sides, coolers, cooking stoves, lamps, cots, mattresses, sleeping bags, and chairs.

The permit is being used in conjunction with DLNR marking the edges of the designated roads, at least temporarily, to make these roads clearer for the public.

The permit will hopefully increase accountability for behavior in the area and make it safer for all users.

The permit is a way to ensure that all drivers receive accurate information about the area. Special conditions, rules, and maps are provided with each permit therefore people can no longer claim that they didn't know the rules.

The permit does not restrict pedestrian access so it does not infringe on native Hawaiian gathering rights or other uses of the State Parks Reserve.